

HAY-FEVER IN CALIFORNIA?

Dr. W. Scheppergrell, the President of the American Hay-Fever Prevention Association, Audubon Building, New Orleans, is very anxious to know some facts as to the existence and the amount of hay-fever in California, and whether it appears to be increasing or decreasing, and if so, in what localities. The hay-fever sufferer is a very pitiable object and about the only thing that he can do is to go to some place where hay-fever does not exist—if he has the means. Will our members who happen to have any definite knowledge of the existence or absence of hay-fever, and of the presence or absence of the rag-weeds that produce it, please advise Dr. Scheppergrell? The information may be of advantage to those eastern sufferers and, incidentally, to California by coaxing them to come here for relief. He will be very grateful for any information which may be sent to him.

PUBLIC HEALTH; MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.

Two books of rather unusual interest, especially at this time when changes are so rapid and suits so very frequent, have recently appeared. "Medical Jurisprudence," by Elmer D. Brothers, of the Chicago Bar, published by the C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, is an interestingly written treatise on forensic medicine which it be well worth while for any physician to read. Doctors as a class are lamentably ignorant of their personal and professional rights and wrongs, duties and obligations. Indeed, so many queries of this sort are coming to the office, that from month to month we shall publish items on various points that have been raised. The other book is "Legal Principles of Public Health Administration," by Henry Bixby Hemenway, published by T. H. Flood & Co., Chicago. It is difficult to see how any public health officer could get along without such a book; and certainly to have read it and to have it at hand, would save any such official much perplexity and probably some worry. Speaking of specially trained health officials, the author says something quite apropos of the Sacramento incident:

"For this special training there may be little demand outside of the governmental work. As an incentive to acquire special fitness the officer should be led to expect permanency of tenure with pay commensurate with the character of the duties. In commercial business it is found to be economical to pay sufficiently large salaries to the higher employees to make it an object to them to study constantly how their particular branches of the work may be improved, either as to quality of the work performed or as to amount of out-

put. Such employees are retained so long as they can 'make good,' to use the business expression, and the pay is made sufficiently high so that they will not be looking for other positions. The state must compete with commercial establishments for men. Certainly the business of the entire commonwealth is as important as that of any portion as represented by a single commercial establishment."

In other words, if modern business finds that it pays to have well-paid experts, why should it not follow that the principle applies to a city; and especially to its health?

PHOTOGRAPHS, PLEASE!

On several previous occasions we have referred briefly to the records concerning physicians which are being gathered in the office of the State Society. The desire is to secure and file away all the information it is possible to get about any and every physician in California. It is exceedingly valuable, the commendatory information no less than that which reflects unfavorably. The question of identity has come up on a number of occasions and in one instance several weeks were required before we could obtain a certain sample of a physician's writing in order to identify a signature to an official document. You have no idea of the importance of this apparently trivial thing of absolutely fixing the identity of a certain individual. For that reason we are filing, as fast as the work can be done and the material secured, samples of handwriting, photographs, etc. Will you please send us your photograph? Preferably, an unmounted one, with your signature on the back; but any sort of photograph will do. We have a few hundred photographs and they come in very handy; we want all we can get; will you help? Please do.

RAY LYMAN WILBUR, M. D., COUNTRY DOCTOR, PRESIDENT OF STANFORD.

The back-bone of the medical profession is not the city specialist or the wonderfully able surgeon; as the JOURNAL has always contended, it is the country doctor who is thorough, careful and conscientious; who works hard and studies hard and who has a large conception of humanity and of human nature and frailty. It is therefore a very great pleasure to record the appointment of Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur to the presidency of one of the large universities of this country—Leland Stanford, Jr., University. The opportunity has been given him to extend his work and his activities into a very large field and the knowledge and the training which he acquired as a good "country doctor" will enable him to be very useful to the institution whose future destinies and policies he is to largely guide and shape. It would probably be conventional to compliment Dr. Wilbur upon his appointment; but would it not be more fitting to felicitate Stanford University and to compliment the medical profession and particularly the country doctor upon this recognition of what it, and the type, may stand for in the community?